

KARO-ECHO Board Meeting

9 February 2019

Harding Clubhouse, El Cerrito

Present:

Don Simon	NI6A
Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Larry Vanselow	KK6GIO
Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Natalie DeJarlais (arrived late)	KM6UCF

Recruitment

Don brought up that we need more volunteers. There were various ways to do that.

- One was a mailing to all hams in Kensington and El Cerrito with the fire Department paying for postage.
- A Ham Cram in late spring or early Summer preceded by a massive publicity effort and followed by Elmer classes
- A EMComm module in the CERT training
- A Comm manual and talk to the existing CERT curriculum.

Funding

The discussion centered around the yeoman work Larry has done regarding the Post Office box, bank account, and Incorporation papers. The board voted him \$300 to reimburse already expended costs on behalf of KAROECHO.

Constitution

We need to add a section regarding disposition of assets. Natalie queried whether it needed to be renamed to “bylaws,” but Don later confirmed that the full title is “Constitution and By-Laws of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and El Cerrito Ham Operators Community Services Association.”

February Membership Meeting Topics

Training session for February SET: Don requested as much time as possible and was allotted 30 minutes.

Howdy was allotted 10 minutes to discuss battery life.

SET Discussion

- Kevin Janes is willing to open up the EOC in El Cerrito City Hall for the SET, and Jamuel is scheduled to go there. Given that Kevin’s role has changed, however, how will we gain access to City Hall? Access has been granted as CERT members, but not as KARO ECHO. The city probably wants to have a staff member present if they open up City Hall for us, which makes this more complicated. Hal suggests talking to the fire department and the city about emergency access to buildings. Howdy is

working on emergency access to city clubhouses. Don will talk to Kevin about his availability to be at the EOC during the SET. If we do not have access to the EOC, we'll have a mobile setup nearby.

- Larry brought up the issue of CERT photo IDs, which don't seem to be happening. Hal will follow up with new CERT director to ask about this. Items we need from the CERT coordinator, including the following:
- Access to the EOC
- ID cards. Have Kevin set a date and see who will show up.
- CERT Communications planning
- Funding for equipment (go-carts, portable equipment to go to any area)

Other Emergency Preparedness Issues

- Will we need to be at the fire stations in an emergency? There won't be personnel there in an emergency, as they will be in the field.
- Batteries and float chargers need to be installed at Harding and Tassajara..
- Tassajara, Harding, and the KCC may benefit
- We're up to date on testing city and agency base station fixed installed sites.
- When Rob returns, we can add radio operating manuals and crib sheets to the printed binder materials at each installed fixed site.
- FRS/GMRS - about 10 hams have GMRS licenses. If there were enough people, Don would add GMRS to the SET.
- Jeff Lomax (BeCertainn) will do a FRS/GMRS training for CERT in March at Arlington Park Clubhouse.

Repair of existing equipment / Establishment of a Technical Working Group

- Radio from senior center needs work; Don is looking at it.
- Kensington radio with Jamuel remains untested.
- There are \$500 radios that could be repaired.
- Howdy will retrieve the X500 antenna from the corporation yard.
- Jerry was going to talk to someone on a repeater about equipment repair.
- In addition to home stations, we need to work on portable setups.
- Hal would like a technical working group to work on equipment. Howdy and Don will be on the group to start.
- Perhaps we should have a regular workshop to teach people repair skills.

New board member

Don moved to appoint Howdy to the board (director at large); Larry seconded; all were in favor.

Fundraising

We will ask for ideas at the membership meeting.
Submitted, KM6UCF